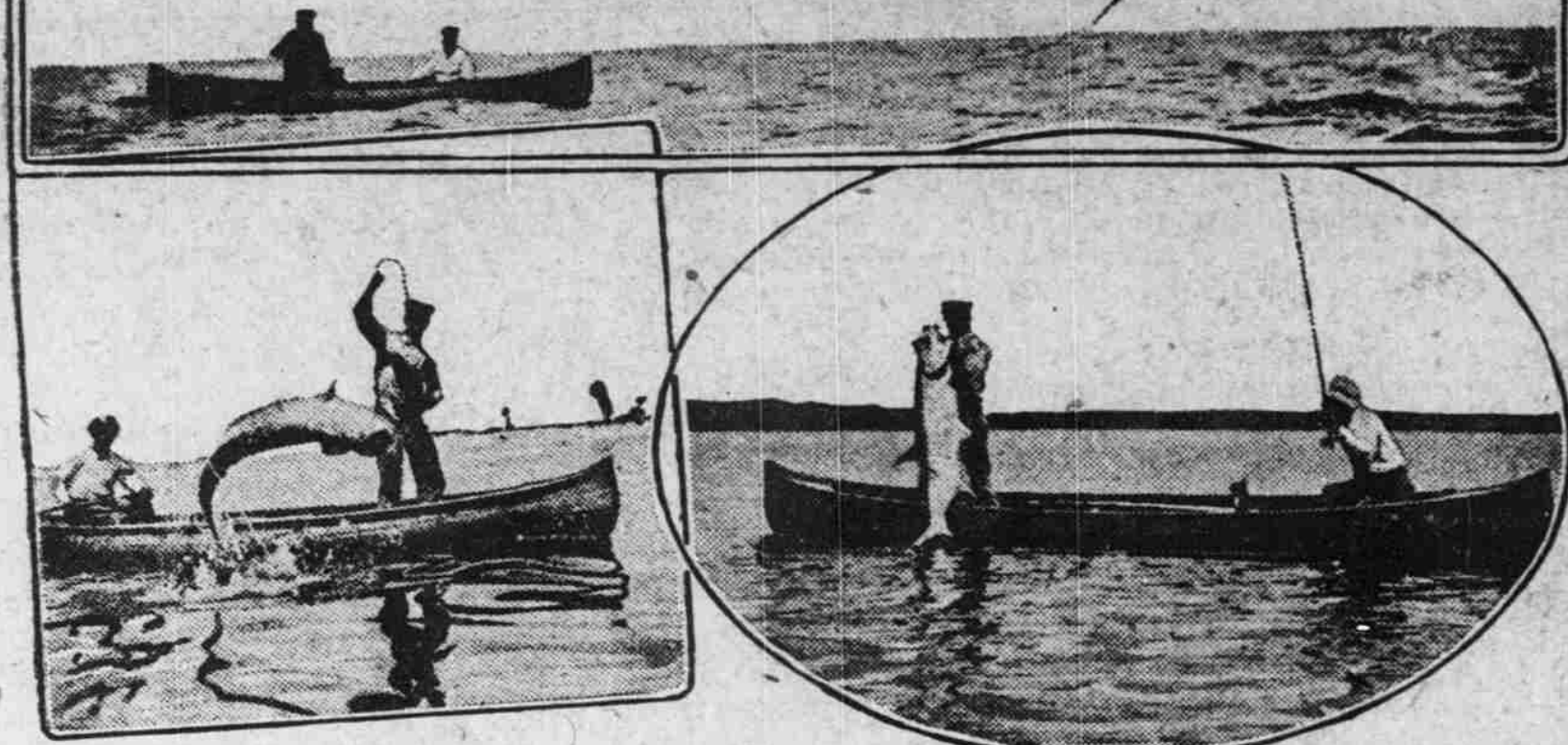


TARPON-FISHING: A ROYAL SPORT

by A.W. DIMOCK



THE tarpon is the most beautiful of big fish, the most spectacular of finny fighters, a swift swimmer of dauntless courage, and the one all-around game fish at his every age. He accepts the sportsman's challenge by leaping into the arena in full, flashing armor, and so joyously meeting his challenger in his own element as to place tarpon fishing for ever in a class by itself.

The photographs present this royal fish as he appears when playing the game with his human adversary. They were taken during two summer months spent on the Gulf coast of Florida by the camera man and the scribe—two months which gave daily proof that of sports that thrill there are few on earth like fishing for tarpon. We followed them with fly rods, with heavy tarpon rods, and with hand lines. We were fast to 334 tarpon, of which 63 were on an eight-ounce fly rod. We killed none, although a few were seized and swallowed by big sharks while being played.

In fishing for pleasure the sportsman usually keeps within from 20 to 100 yards of the tarpon as he plays him. As we were fishing for the camera, a long-range contest was useless, and we fought the fish fiercely from the time they struck. We smashed five heavy tarpon rods and broke lines that would each sustain over 60 pounds. We held our canoe as near the tarpon as possible, and as soon as he seemed tired, pulled it beside him and took the hook from his mouth. Sometimes we found this exciting. The avoirdupois of the fish caught varied from one and a half pounds each to more than one hundred times that weight, while their length ranged from eighteen inches to over six and a half feet.

From Charlotte Harbor to Cape Sable we exploited the tarpon fishing grounds; we captured them in the Gulf of Mexico while white-capped waves spilled water over us, and we were towed by them through narrow, overgrown creeks, where sometimes our quarry escaped us by leaping into the thick bushes over our heads. The tarpon can be played gently from a light-running reel for hours, or he can be fought furiously and made to leap wildly around, beside, over, and even into the boat of the fisherman. Small tarpon, weighing from two to fifteen pounds, are found in fresh water in creeks and pools near the heads of rivers. Larger fish, of from 20 to 60 pounds, choose the brackish water of streams near the Gulf; while the really big fish, weighing from 80 to 200 pounds, are more frequently caught in the big passes or near the mouths of large rivers.

I fished from a light canoe which my boatman paddled, while the camera-man sat in the bow of a little motor boat which backed, filled and hovered on the sunward side of us. On our first day at Boca Grande—the mile-wide, ten-fathom pass, home of great sea creatures, from dolphins to turtles, from sharks to devilfish—we found it windswept, but its turbulent waters were alive with fish of many kinds. Flocks of gulls, tern and pelicans above, and splashing of jackfish and tarpon below, marked the presence of great schools of minnows. The tide was boiling out of the pass when we struck a six-foot tarpon which at once started for the Gulf, carrying us toward the line of foam-crested rollers outside. The motor boat vainly struggled to hold us against tide and tarpon. We were rushing through the water away from

the breakers, yet minute by minute, as in an uncanny dream, they drifted nearer. Soon the spray was flying over the canoe while solid water spilled into the low-sided motor boat, which was quickly cut loose and soon found smooth water. For an hour the canoe tossed in the waves while the tarpon was being played, but in the rough water no photographs could be taken.

A big tarpon that was fast to my line in Boca Grande jumped beside me and was bitten in two by a great shark which nearly swamped the canoe with a blow of his tail and splashed me with the blood of his victim. Sometimes a shark swallowed a tarpon which I was playing, and the playing continued until the shark was landed on the beach for a final photograph of the tarpon in his enemy's stomach.

After twenty-nine days at Boca Grande and Captiva passes had given us 150 tarpon, and five days in the Caloosahatchee river had added 35 to that number, we sailed down the coast to the mouth of Harney river. The pools and creeks near its source are filled with tarpon weighing each from 20 ounces to 20 pounds, and in five days I caught 25 on an 8-ounce fly rod. Broad river lies just north of Harney, and in it we found the fish so large that the fly rod was laid aside, and we took 10 tarpon on heavy rods in one forenoon. Then we broke both of our rods and had to sail 50 miles to find tough enough wood from which to make new ones. Hueston river in Chatham Bend yielded 30 tarpon in three days, after which we finished up

with five days in Turners and Allens rivers, during which we took 67 tarpon. One of these, which I caught on an 8-ounce fly rod, weighed 150 pounds, and measured six and a half feet. It took three hours to conquer him, during which my boatman was worn out by the need of keeping the canoe near the tarpon.

Our catch during the trip was as follows: Fifteen days at Boca Grande Pass, 84 tarpon; fourteen days at Captiva Pass, 86 tarpon; eight days on the Caloosahatchee river, 35 tarpon; three days at Marco, 14 tarpon; five days on the Harney river, 25 tarpon; two days on the Broad river, 13 tarpon; three days on the Hueston river, 30 tarpon; five days on the Turners river, 56 tarpon, and two days on the Allens river, 11 tarpon. That gives a total catch of 334 tarpon in fifty-two days.

Between the above passes and streams are others in which tarpon abound. They can be found scattered through the broad shallow waters and deeper channels of the whole great Ten Thousand Islands.

To object to taking a tarpon for mounting, or other rational purpose, would seem fanatical, but wantonly to sacrifice these beautiful creatures, after they have added so much to your pleasure, is causeless cruelty. They can be measured without harming them, and the cube of their length in feet, divided by two, gives their weight in pounds as nearly as need be. No trust controls tarpon fishing. No sport on earth offers greater legitimate excitement. And half the glory of the game is its humanity.

MEN IN COMMON CLAY



"UNCLE JOE" CANNON.

Great statesman and former speaker of the house of representatives, who, after years of service in the law-making branch of the government, passes into private life.

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came with the words, spoken by my heroine, 'Oh, here's the professor— isn't he wonderful?' whereupon the professor, in fur-trimmed skating coat, proceeded to perform a marvelous series of grapevine twists and inside rolls and what-not, in the midst whereof the curtain fell.

"Well, one evening I dropped in at Drury Lane to see the skating pond climax."

"My heroine cried with sweet vivacity: 'Oh, here's the professor— isn't he wonderful!' and all eyes centered ex-

pectantly on the fur-coated professor, and he, poor fellow, shot proudly forth, tripped over something or other, and with outspread arms and legs fell like a ton of brick.

"The curtain descended amid roars of laughter. Though we didn't repeat it, I believe that this accidental climax was really more telling than our right one."

Human Growth in New York. Every six minutes a new human being is born in New York.

FARM OF FORTY ACRES

Equipment, Management and Income of Small Place.

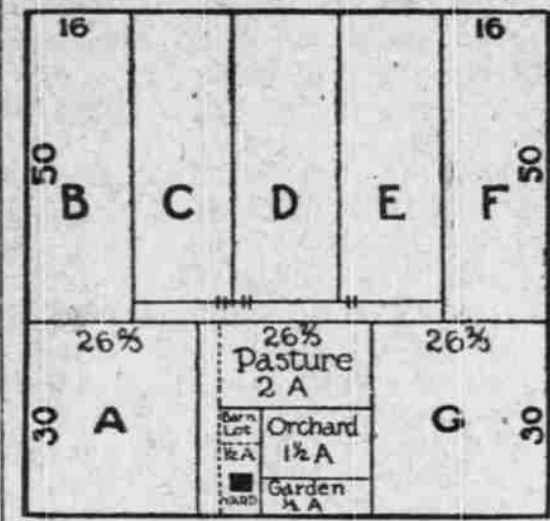
Convenient Scheme for Dividing Land Into Five-Acre Tracts—One of These Utilized for Home-stand and Garden.

(By W. J. SPILLMAN, Chief of United States Bureau of Farm Management.)

Mr. H. H. Mowry of the office of farm management, has been making a special study of the equipment, management and income of a large number of small fruit and truck farms, many of them run by people who have recently come from the city.

This study has given us somewhat a new point of view. In general these small farmers are not successful. This fact has led us to study the question more closely, and as a result a scheme for the management of a forty-acre farm is outlined below, which seems to be practicable.

Figure 1 shows a convenient scheme for subdividing forty acres to fit it for the cropping system to be outlined below. It will be observed that the forty acres are divided into eight five-acre tracts. One of these is set aside for what may be called the "home-stand." These five acres are at the



Forty-acre farm subdivided into eight five-acre tracts. This shows a convenient method of subdivision which gives access to all the fields without wasting much land in roads. Length of lines given in rods.

center on one side, and it is supposed that a public road passes this side of the tract.

Of these five acres half an acre is utilized for the house and yard and the barn and barn lot. This space is ample for what we have in view. One-half acre is devoted to garden, one and one-half acres to orchard and the remaining two acres for a paddock into which to turn the stock for exercise.

By judicious management these two acres can also be made to furnish some pasture and some soiling crops. The other seven five-acre tracts are to be devoted to a seven-year rotation. When this rotation is in full swing the crops on the farm for a given year will be as follows: Field A, potatoes; field B, three acres of cabbage and two acres of onions; field C, corn; field D, cowpeas; field E, corn; field F, clover; field G, clover.

The next year each of these crops would move to another field as follows: The potatoes would go to field G, which was in clover the year before. The cabbage and onions next year would go to field B. The corn on field C would go the next year to field B. Cowpeas in field D would go the next year to field C. The corn in field E would go to D, while E would be sown in clover and F remain in clover.

The next year each crop would move to another field in the same manner, so that each year potatoes are sown after second year clover, cabbage and onions are planted after potatoes, etc.

The potatoes, cabbage and onions on this farm would form the "market" crops. The two fields of corn, the field of cowpeas and the first year's seeding of clover would furnish twenty acres of forage for the live stock, while the second year clover would furnish pasture for the live stock during the summer.

In each of the two corn fields some winter grain, such as wheat or rye, could be sown early in August at the time when the corn is laid by, that is, when cultivation of the corn ceases. This wheat would furnish fall and winter pasture for the live stock.

In the corn field which is to be followed by clover the wheat would be turned under very early in the spring in preparation for sowing the clover. In the corn field which is to be followed by cowpeas the wheat could remain until the second year clover field is ready to turn stock on, at which time it might be plowed up and sown to cowpeas. We thus have pasture during the whole year in sections where the seasons permit winter pasturing.

In states that are too far north for the cowpeas, soy beans may be substituted for them, and in regions too far north for soy beans, oats can be used on this field, the other crops in the rotation remaining the same. Commercial fertilizers would be required for the potatoes, cabbage and onions.

There is plenty of good literature published by the department of agriculture and by a good many of the state experiment stations relative to the cultivation and fertilization of potatoes, cabbage and onions, and the reader is referred to this literature for further information concerning the growing of these crops.

One fact to which I would call attention is that in the marketing of potatoes, cabbage and onions it is not necessary for the farmer to run to market every day for several weeks, as would be the case with most other kinds of truck crops, especially strawberries and tomatoes.

KEEPING BROOD SOW HEALTHY

Preferable to Keep Animal as Near Grass or Vegetable Diet as Possible—Roths Urged.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE.)

Grass and vegetable matter are the most natural foods for pigs, although they will eat and can digest a great variety of things. The nearer a sow can be kept to a grass or vegetable diet the healthier she will be, and this system is preferable to dry, rich foods consisting mainly of grain, barley or other meals.

Bran is most useful when grass is not available, but where it is not possible to give sows a grass run, lucerne, tares and other green forage crops can sometimes be substituted.

Roots, except that mangels must not be given at all freely as farrowing approaches or the pigs are almost certain to be born dead, are useful and where there is a large garden it will provide a great deal of vegetable stuff that can be advantageously employed for in-pig sows—stuff, too, that would be otherwise wasted. Large quantities of dry grain, and especially corn and barley, must be avoided as too heating; and hotel waste, butcher's offal, slaughter-house refuse—indeed animal matter in any form—are also bad, and may, it is said, be an exciting cause of cannibalism.

When at grass or getting green forage or garden stuff, a few old beans or some dry corn may be given once or twice a week.

The food for the in-pig sow for the last week or so of her time should be as nearly as possible that on which she will be fed for three or four weeks after she is farrowed. A well-known breeder says:

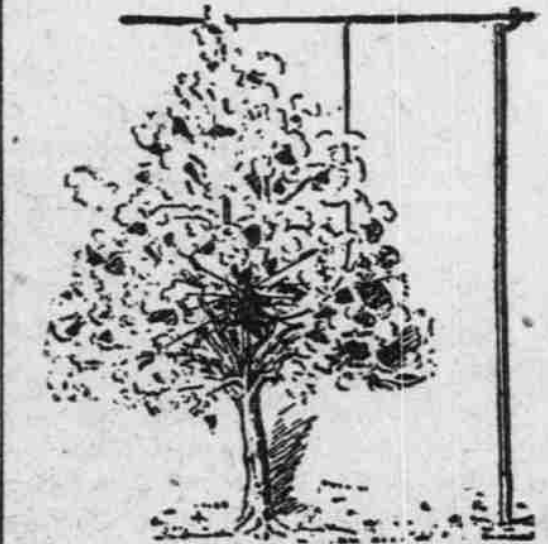
"We have ceased to give barley or other meal to our sucking sows until the pigs are at least a month old. Our newly farrowed sows are fed sharps, or what is locally termed thirds, middlings, etc., and a varying amount of bran, determined by the richness of the sharps, the number of the litter and the age of the sow, also condition." His recommendation for feeding the in-pig sow is: "Vegetable food, with a little dry grass, beans, peas or corn until within a week of farrowing."

PROTECTS BUDS FROM FROST

Colorado Man Conceives Idea of Placing Electric Motor in Tree to Cause Vibration.

A recent invention relates to a new system of motor operated tree vibration for saving buds and blossoms from frost.

The new system aims to create in fruit trees a movement of the sap to the buds and blossoms that tends to vitalize them enough to resist the attacking blight of frost. This movement of the sap might be called a capillary action, and can be likened to the gentle exercising action of an electric vibrator instrument on the



Tree Vibratory in Place.

human system, which stimulates the flowing action of the blood through the veins, especially at the point where the vibrator is applied.

The system of imparting this vibratory action to buds and blossoms has been worked out and patented by Herman L. Darling of Delta, Colo. It comprises the installation in the tree of a small electric motor having a trembling rotary motion and connected by transmitting wires to an electric current.

During the months of April and May when the orchard is subjected to sudden freezes, by means of this system, a vibratory trembling motion is imparted to all limbs of the tree, transmitted to twigs and buds and this motion starts the sap to circulating, invigorates the buds and strengthens them against the killing effects of the frost.

Unfavorable Soils.

Clay soils are unfavorable to vegetation because the soil is too close and adhesive to allow the free passage of air or water to the roots of the plants. It also obstructs the expansion of the fibers of the roots. Sandy soils are unfavorable because they consist of particles that have too little adhesion to each other. They do not retain sufficient moisture for the nourishment of the plants. They allow too much solar heat to pass to the roots. Chalk soils are unfavorable because they do not absorb the solar heat, and are, therefore, cold to the roots of the plants.

Draft Horses Scarce.

A. B. Alford, a transfer man of Philadelphia, states that while statistics show a larger number of horses in the United States than ever before, it is harder to get hold of a good draft animal at a fair price than it was fifteen years ago when he could buy all he wanted for from \$100 to \$125 and today he cannot get horses of the same kind for \$200 or \$250.

The ONLOOKER S.E. KISER Hopes Deferred



He worried through the busy days. Because his plans so often failed; He sought success in many ways; Obstructions daily he assailed; He longed for honor and for fame; He strove to win a lofty place; His hair grew gray and wrinkles came; To write the story on his face.

He worked with all the might he had; To prove his worth and win regard; His shoulders drooped, his look grew sad; The path he chose was steep and hard; Deprived of sympathy and aid; He struggled on, defying Fate; With talents that were small he made A splendid struggle to be great.

His wife from day to day complained; Her once fair face was ever sad; 'Twas not that he so seldom gained; The ends that might have made him glad; Her tones were tinged with deep regret; And sorrow came with her to dwell; Because it was so hard to get; Dressmakers who could fit her well.

What He Wanted. "I have," said the gentleman with the frayed overcoat and unmanicured nails, "just succeeded in figuring out the exact moment at which life will cease to exist on this planet, and if you will permit me I will be glad to read to you an article—with a view to publication in your valuable journal—which I have written on the subject."

"My dear sir," replied the subeditor. "If you can figure out the exact moment at which life will cease to exist in the ticks of our boarding house beds I will be more than glad to consider any article you may prepare on the subject."

Still Young, Apparently. "Simeon," his wife protested, "please do be careful. Remember that you are not as young as you used to be." "Pshaw!" he replied; "I'm not getting old. I have never been referred to as the Nestor or the dean of anything."

Unfitness of Things. "Burlison" is having his new house finished up with a lot of quaint-looking contrivances. He has bought a big, old-fashioned brass knocker to be fastened on the front door. "I thought he claimed to be a character member of the anti-knocking society."

Gratification. "Why do you belong to the golf club? I have never seen you playing."

"I get so much satisfaction out of sitting around and watching the men keeping the greens in order. I once had to work for a living myself."

Pointer Wanted. "Officer, arrest that man! He just walked up to me and whispered that I was the most beautiful woman he ever saw."

"Very well, ma'am. What shall I charge him with—insanity?"

Her One Advantage. The heiress who marries a titled foreigner has one advantage. She needn't be afraid that he will ever complain that her cooking isn't as good as his mother's used to be.

Description in Brief. "What kind of a fellow is Binkley, anyhow?"

"Well, I think I can best describe him by saying that he keeps Lent in his wife's name."

When to Quit. There would be fewer divorces if women would quit talking when it had been conceded that they have won the debate.

The Trouble. A man may be religious without belonging to a church, but the trouble is that he generally isn't.

It Began With Adam. Denouncing the government is the oldest profession in the world.

S. E. Kiser.

UNREHEARSED, BUT MADE HIT

Climax to Dramatic Act Not What Author Intended, Though It Pleased the Audience.

Cecil Raleigh, the writer of melodramas, was talking to an American correspondent in London about stage contretemps.

"In one of my best plays," he said, "I introduced in Act II, a novelty in the shape of a skating pond with real ice and real skaters. The act's climax